

## **Chapter 1 – Introduction**

In 2005, Governor Mitch Daniels created the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) to insure that the faith-based institutions of Indiana were provided equal access to state and federal resources. Alongside the Indiana Commission of Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV), a group of community leaders appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to advocate, review and adjust the state's position on issues related to the community service and volunteer sectors, OFBCI provides information, training, technical assistance, and limited grant funding to both community-based and faith-based organizations seeking to make Indiana a better place to live for all citizens. Our office serves as a liaison between government and nonprofits in order to support the collaborative effort to serve Hoosiers in need. We have discovered that these organizations are helping their neighbors in incredibly innovative ways, and one of OFBCI's goals is to highlight those achievements.

Since my appointment as Executive Director of the OFB CI two years ago I've had an unprecedented opportunity to meet Hoosiers from various backgrounds, traditions and religious beliefs, each with an undeniable commitment to serving their communities and neighbors. Recently our national economy has taken a turn for the worse, making the work of these everyday Good Samaritans more difficult as their capacity to deliver effective programs is stretched to the breaking point. Because of this confluence of increased need and decreased resources, it has become imperative for OFBCI to take more measures to support our nonprofits serving their local communities. This is why we recruited five AmeriCorps VISTAs to serve faith-based and community-based organizations (FBCOs) by facilitating resource networking and capacity building.

The results of this report have been surprising and encouraging, and we feel that it demonstrates our desire to strengthen Hoosier nonprofits. What we have seen is that the various regions of the state have unique strengths, which has helped us tailor our services regionally to utilize those talents and skills to bolster the most challenging areas of capacity. Most of all, we are excited to

reach out to communities that we have not been in contact with thus far. In doing so, we expand the network of collaboration with our office. This regional focus can help us make these connections to build up a better infrastructure for the nonprofit community.

One finding from the survey that was not surprising at all was the innovative and comprehensive nature of Hoosier nonprofits' services to those in need. We have sought to highlight and champion the many good works happening in our state, and this survey has given us a new way to hear about these local success stories. The daily work of grassroots agencies across Indiana is the true life blood of our cities and towns. Without their dedication and labor of love, nothing we do would have a lasting impact on the well-being of our citizens.

On behalf of Governor Daniels, the staff of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and hundreds of Hoosiers that are benefitting from your tireless commitment and programs I want to thank you for your participation in this study. We are committed to using the data from this report as well as your feedback to position OFBCI as an effective partner for programs and agencies across the Indiana who share in the commitment of service for all Hoosiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Isaac E. Randolph, Jr.", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Isaac E. Randolph, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives